

auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Today there are more than 56,000 members in the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The membership of the CAP is comprised of cadets between the ages of 12 and 18, and senior members, who are 18 or older. The Michigan Wing of the CAP currently has 487 cadets and 740 senior members. The CAP has three missions; to run cadet programs to build character, leadership, patriotism, and honor; to promote aerospace education; and to serve as a primary resource for the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

The Oakland Composite Squadron, which is located in Waterford, Michigan, has 57 members, 29 of whom are cadets. Earlier this year, five of those cadets stepped forward to serve as members of the squadron's Color Guard Team. The team appears at public events like parades and veterans' ceremonies presenting and posting colors. They also participated in Color Guard competitions which require dedication, team work, and exceptional academic success.

After embarking on a rigorous training regimen that required physical and mental discipline, the Oakland Composite Squadron Color Guard went on to win first place overall at the Michigan Wing competition after sweeping all seven events on March 30. Then, on May 4, the team once again won first place overall at the Great Lakes Regional competition. They would go on to represent the entire region, consisting of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Wisconsin in the National Cadet Competition on June 30. At the National Competition, the team took second place in the Academic Panel Quiz and tied for third place overall.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate these cadets for their hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent these young men and women who have shown such character in competition. Theirs is a shining example of what we are all capable of achieving with dedication and hard work.

#### THE FUEL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2008

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, Today I, along with Representatives CHRIS SHAYS and HEATH SHULER, introduced H.R. 6687, the Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act of 2008.

This bill would help ensure that Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") has the resources it needs to enforce our nation's immigration laws in the face of the rising cost of fuel.

Last year, ICE budgeted \$20 million for fuel expenses, but the rising price of gas forced them to spend more than \$40 million.

Even more alarming, it appears the \$20 million fuel budget was based on an assumption by the Department of Homeland Security that the price of gas was approximately \$1.62 per gallon.

The Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act would require the Department of Homeland Security to begin using realistic estimates for ICE's fuel expenses. Specifically, it would re-

quire the Department to calculate, on an annual basis, the cost of fuel expenses for all vehicles owned or operated by ICE according to gasoline prices reported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update, and then report those calculations to Congress.

ICE is tasked with enforcing our nation's immigration laws, and is absolutely critical to the Phoenix metropolitan area as well as other metropolitan areas in the southwest where criminal aliens set up drop houses as way stations for drug, weapon and human smuggling operations. The Phoenix metro area in particular is estimated to have as many as 1000 such drop houses.

The House Appropriations Committee recently said, in no uncertain terms, that, "ICE should have no greater immigration enforcement priority than to remove violent, deportable criminal aliens from the United States." I couldn't agree more.

We need to ensure that ICE has the resources it needs to crack down on drop houses and other criminal alien enterprises. When ICE is unable to meet its responsibilities, it falls to local law enforcement to fill the gap. Our local law enforcement is already stretched thin, and I fear the burden will be even greater if ICE is forced to scale back its efforts due to an increase in the price of gas.

If we are serious about enforcing our nation's immigrations laws, we need to provide the resources necessary to get the job done. The Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act will help ensure that ICE has what it needs, in the face of rising fuel expenses.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the 60th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9981, in which President Truman ordered the racial integration of the Armed Forces, declaring that, "there be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

While it is fitting that we celebrate the official 60-year anniversary, we should also recognize that African Americans have been fighting on behalf of our Nation from the American Revolutionary War to the current Global War on Terror. The sacrifices made and service given by African American soldiers to our country, even when our country failed to live up to its own promise of equality and justice for all, is a testament to their belief that hard work and faith would eventually allow them to become full partners in every facet of society, including our Armed Forces.

The celebration of this anniversary also gives me an opportunity to recognize a trail-blazing African American woman from my hometown who was among the first five African American women in Tampa to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps back in 1942,

six years prior to the signing of the Executive Order. Mrs. Willie Mae Williams, who celebrated her 95th birthday this past November, proudly served her nation paving the way for others from her community, and women in particular, to follow in her steps.

In her recent interview with the Women Veterans Historical Project for the Library of Congress, Mrs. Williams gave a very candid and informative look at the experience she had in the military as a woman of color. At that time, women were not allowed to face combat, instead serving as cooks and laundry workers, who often had to go together in groups to take showers to ensure their safety, and who endured taunts from officers who opposed their participation, either on the basis of their gender or color, and in some instances both. While Mrs. Williams acknowledged that life in the service for women of color was "rough", she certainly views herself and others as role models for the women who came after. She observed, "We were good pioneers."

Indeed, the service of Mrs. Williams and other women like her has led to the growth in service of African American women and men throughout the years. Currently, 20 percent of the more than 1,754,900 service members who have fought in support of the ongoing Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are minorities, evidence that the United States could not maintain an all-volunteer force without the service of and critical role played by minorities, including women.

Our Armed Forces have been served by some of the most brilliant African American leaders from Benjamin O. Davis Senior and Junior to Colin Powell as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Today, minorities serve in senior leadership positions throughout the Armed Forces, as commissioned, warrant and non-commissioned officers. The advancement of these men and women is evidence that the integration of the Armed Forces not only enhanced the combat effectiveness of the military 60 years ago, but continues still to ensure that America has a diverse array of its best and brightest working to defend it.

I am pleased to commemorate this historic event, and salute all our brave men and women who have served us so well through the years.

#### IN HONOR OF SGT MARCO ROBLEDO

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam, Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American hero, SGT Marco Robledo from the Third District of Arkansas.

Marco has selflessly served in the United States Army. The commitment he showed his fellow soldiers and his country is something we can all be proud of.

On May 26, 2007, Marco was injured in Iraq. He lost his left arm and his left leg, but he still has a strong spirit and he's made lasting impressions with me and with others who've had the opportunity to meet him.

In honor of his sacrifice Albert Casewell wrote the following poem: